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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Resumed thirty-second session
31 August-18 September 1992
Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED THIRTY-SECOND SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Sally E. MOSS (Bahamas)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

General considerations

Discussion

1. The Committee had considered the proposed revisions to 10 programmes during the first part of its session. At its resumed session the Committee was to review proposed revisions to 27 programmes for which the Committee was competent in accordance with the programme planning regulations and rules, as well as further revisions to 3 of the programmes that it had already considered during the first part of its session.

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee noted that to a considerable extent the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan incorporated the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and of the first phase of

the ongoing process of restructuring. The Committee recommended approval of those revisions on the understanding that further modifications would be made to the relevant programmes to take into account decisions by the General Assembly, inter alia, on the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular Agenda 21, and the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the ongoing process of restructuring of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors, as foreseen by the Economic and Social Council.

3. The Committee recommended that references throughout the revisions of the medium-term plan to countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy be made consistently, using that recognized terminology.

4. The Committee stressed that the introduction of the concept of sustainable development in the proposed revisions to a number of programmes should be construed not as narrowing the scope of the activities mandated under the programmes contained in the initial version of the medium-term plan but rather as adding a new dimension to their implementation.

5. The Committee noted that reference was made in a number of proposed revisions to decisions of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and to bulletins of the Secretary-General. In this connection, the Committee noted that these do not constitute mandates for programmes.

6. The Committee continued its consideration of the format of the medium-term plan. It considered that every effort should be made to maintain the prominent place of the plan as a policy directive for the work of the Organization. The Committee noted that only a limited number of the revised programmes had been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies and regretted that situation, which deprived the Committee of a valuable substantive input to its own review. It considered that ways should be found to improve the consideration of the plan and the revisions to the plan by those bodies.

7. The Committee recommended that a prototype of a possible new format of the medium-term plan be presented to the Committee at its thirty-third session. The prototype should take into account the relevant conclusions of the seminar on the prototype of a new budget document and address, in particular, issues concerning the manageability of the drafting and revision process, including the questions of preparation and submission of documentation and the review of programme planning documents by subsidiary intergovernmental machinery.

8. The Committee recommended that an ad hoc technical seminar of experts be convened in the field of programme planning of the United Nations, without additional cost to the Organization, to assist the Secretariat in the drafting of the proposal.